



Artists for Conservation (AFC) Announces Public Release of Pollyanna Pickering's Expedition Journal to Bhutan

Latest Flag Expedition Journal by UK Artist is a masterpiece capturing the unique biodiversity of Bhutan through sketches, paintings and anecdotes.

Vancouver, B.C., CANADA (August 29, 2007) - The Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC) is proud to announce that a new Flag Expedition Journal, capturing Pollyanna Pickering's expedition to Bhutan, has been published on the AFC website. The artist created the journal while traveling through Bhutan, studying the unique spectrum of flora and fauna from the region as well as the conservation issues faced by the region. Dramatic sketches, drawings and a first person account of the Bhutanese people, their lifestyle, and the diversity of Bhutan's flora and fauna, make up the journal's contents.

Pickering was the fourth artist to receive an AFC Flag Expedition Fellowship since the program's inception in 2005, in support of her trek through Bhutan, officially titled "*The Flora & Fauna of Bhutan - An Artist's Journey through the Land of the Thunder Dragon*". The AFC's Flag Expeditions program enables artists to journey to remote parts of the world to make artistic field studies and renderings of endangered species or threatened habitats, and to share their observations with the rest of the world. To date, expeditions have been undertaken to such places, as the jungles of Central America, the Himalayas, Zimbabwe, and the Canadian Arctic.

To stress the importance of conserving the ecology of the region, artists participating in the AFC Flag Expeditions program are required to capture their findings in a special, handmade leather-bound journal, provided by the AFC. The growing library of journals form part of a permanent collection, serving to highlight global conservation issues, while at the same time, showcasing the beauty of a region or species through an artist's renderings. The journals will form part of exhibits accompanied by original studio work.

Now published on the AFC website, Pickering's journal will take visitors to a place where many dream of visiting, but few are able to go. Never before-seen sketches and paintings document the spirit of Bhutan and its people in the 207-page journal, replete with sketches, paintings, collages and entertaining day-to-day anecdotes, detailing the artists' expedition

AFC President and Founder, Jeff Whiting is thrilled with the journal. "Pollyanna is a tremendously talented artist, seasoned explorer and a gifted communicator. Her findings, and subsequently her art, will serve to directly support wildlife and habitat conservation in that region. We are proud to support Pollyanna on this Flag Expedition, and to help share her stories and art with the world. "

Accompanying Pickering on the month-long journey was her daughter, Anna-Louise, an accomplished photographer. She now will complete 50 pieces of original artwork for a major exhibition and gallery shows. Along with her sketches, paintings, photography, and video clips, Pickering will also be publishing a book on her findings, and lecture tours are already scheduled well into 2008.

For more information about Pollyanna's expedition, including photos, blog and the Flag Journal, please visit www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions.

About the Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC): The Artists for Conservation Foundation (AFC) is the world's foremost international organization of nature artists, dedicated to the celebration and preservation of our natural heritage. Membership is by invitation-only, and is limited to 500 artists worldwide. It reads like a "Who's Who" of nature art, and includes the top names in the field, such as Robert Bateman, John Banovich, Guy Coheleach and David Shepherd. For more information about the AFC's innovative initiatives, visit www.natureartists.com.

About the Flag Expeditions Program: The objective of the Flag Expeditions Program is to make possible the artistic field study and rendering of species or habitats deserving of greater public attention with strong emphasis on unique and threatened habitats and rare or endangered species in remote parts of the world. For more information on the AFC Flag Expeditions Program, or sponsorship opportunities, please visit the Expedition Web site at www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions/.

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- Artists for Conservation (AFC) www.natureartists.com
- AFC Flag Expeditions Program: www.natureartists.com/flagexpeditions
- Pollyanna Pickering: www.natureartists.com/pollyanna_pickering.asp

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